

For more information contact the
Office of Rail Transportation
Iowa Department of Transportation
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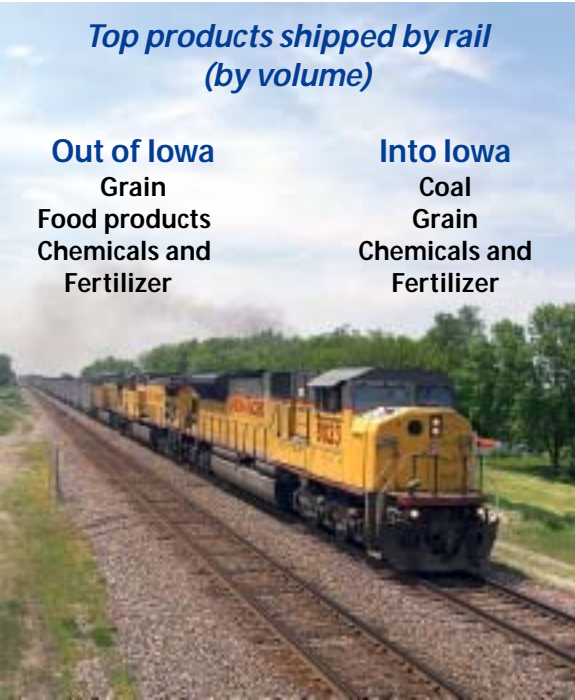
Or visit our Web site at www.iowarail.com



Just as the railroad tracks guide trains toward their destination, Iowa's railroads play a vital role in keeping our state's economic health and growth "on track" for the future.

Moves Iowa's products to market

Railroads ship a diverse mix of commodities into and out of Iowa—from lumber to vegetables, coal to orange juice, grain to automobiles, and scrap iron to chemicals.



Rail transportation supplies links to distant markets, which makes it possible for Iowa's products and commodities to be sold worldwide.

Supports Iowa's agricultural production

Much of Iowa's grain is shipped by rail to processing plants and export markets. Value-added products produced from Iowa's grain, such as ethanol and its byproducts, bio-diesel, corn syrup, and many other food products, are shipped by rail.

Attracts and sustains industry

When new or existing industries decide to relocate or expand, access to convenient and cost-effective transportation is an essential consideration. Rail transportation can supply that "edge" that many firms are seeking.

Rail service continues to be an excellent buy for Iowa shippers, improving the competitiveness of Iowa businesses. On average it costs 60 percent less (adjusted for inflation) to move freight by rail now, than in 1981. Many of Iowa's current industries depend upon affordable and reliable rail service for their continuing existence and profitability.



Boosts Iowa's Economy

Railroads operating in Iowa spend more than \$268 million annually to maintain and improve their rail infrastructure. As private industries, railroads contribute significantly to Iowa's tax base through payment of property taxes.

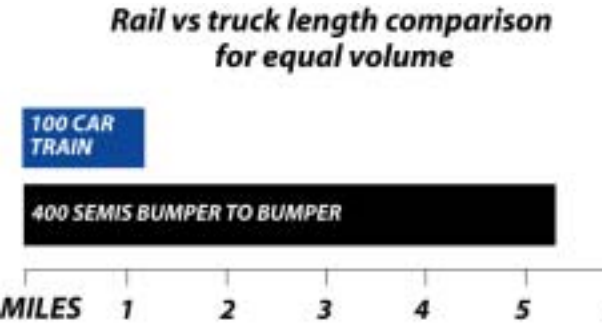
Iowa's freight railroads employ nearly 3,700 people, and pay \$232 million a year in wages and benefits to Iowans. More than 9,400 retired railroad workers and family members receive \$122 million in retirement benefits each year.

Provides options for travelers

Two transcontinental passenger routes pass through Iowa with stops at six passenger rail stations. Over 54,000 passengers annually use Amtrak as an alternative to motor vehicle or air travel.

Lessens highway congestion

Railroads ship freight very efficiently in high-capacity rail cars. Each rail car carries the equivalent of four semi-trailer loads. Overall, railroads annually ship over 86 million tons of freight into and out of Iowa. Additionally, another 138 million tons of freight travel through Iowa en route to other destinations. In total, railroads haul the equivalent of 8.6 million semi-trailer loads of freight into, out of, and through the state.



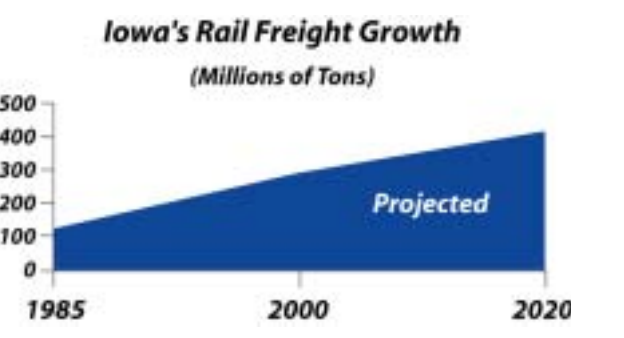
Protects Iowa's environment

Rail transportation helps protect Iowa's environment and air quality through energy efficiency. Compared to truck transportation, railroads are three to six times more fuel-efficient. On average, today's trains can move a ton of freight over 400 miles on a gallon of diesel fuel.

Looking ahead

Though rail makes up only 3 percent of Iowa's 140,000-mile transportation system, railroads carry over 40 percent of Iowa's freight tonnage.

Iowa's rail traffic has more than doubled during the last 20 years and continues to rise. Intermodal shipments (where goods are shipped on multiple transportation modes throughout their journey) are rapidly increasing as foreign imports rise. Freight carried on all modes of travel, including that which is hauled by rail, is anticipated to nearly double within the next 15 years.



As freight volumes grow and Iowa strives to remain competitive in an increasingly global marketplace, the efficiency, economy and access to distant markets provided by rail transportation will become even more critical to keeping Iowa's economy "on track" as we move into the future.